

Dear Mr. Bradley,
Associate Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Program
National Organic Program

We are writing you this letter to express our thoughts on the NOP's proposed rule to address the changes in the regulations caused by the Harvey lawsuit and the OFPA Amendment. We are 100% organic dairy farmers from southwest Wisconsin. We are a family farm with no hired help. Langmeier Dairy Inc. has 5 family members and we have 150 organic cows on the farm. We did not buy any cattle organic or conventional to expand our herd. We grew internally. Our herd grew in size because the organic way is so much healthier for the cows, that they started staying around longer, which gave us more calves, which in turn grew our herd.

We support the USDA's efforts to strengthen organic dairy standards. We feel that there is a two track system for organic dairy farmers. Basically one farmer can only buy 100% organic dairy cattle while another farm that got into organics a different way can buy conventional cattle to turn into organic cows.

We feel that animals born on the farm must be raised under organic management and that animals purchased as replacements or expansion animals must be organic from the last third of gestation. We don't know if everyone is in the situation we were in the grow slowly, but that doesn't mean they should get to buy conventional replacements unless they are organic from the last third of gestation. The two track system can allow too many factory farms to slip into organics just for the money. Most don't care about the true philosophy and principles of organic dairy farming. To keep the Organic market strong we need strong standards to keep Organic's integrity. Getting rid of the two track system will help keep things fair and keep Organic dairy farming strong.

Sincerely,
Jim, Sabrina, Joe,
Mike and Keith Langmeier